

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend and/or cancel the claim(s) of the captioned application, and/or add claim(s) to the captioned application, in accordance with the following annotations and/or mark-ups showing all change(s) relative to the previous version(s) of the claim(s) as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.121:

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

Claim 7. (original) In a method of molding plastic articles using a thermoset resin, the improvement comprising adding a cellulosic material to the resin before curing to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds.

Claim 8. (previously amended) The improved method of claim 7 wherein said cellulosic material additionally comprises between about 10 and about 50 weight per cent of lignin.

Claim 9. (previously amended) The improved method of claim 7 additionally comprising applying a coating of the cellulosic material over the mixture of cellulosic material and resin.

Claim 10. (previously amended) The improved method of claim 7 wherein the resin is a styrene resin and the cellulosic material is applied no later than about ten minutes prior to the onset of the curing reaction.

Claim 11. (original) The improved method of claim 10 wherein the cellulosic material is applied prior to the onset of polymerization of the resin.

Claim 12. (original) The improved method of claim 7 additionally comprising accelerating the curing of the resin.

Claim 13. (original) The improved method of claim 12 additionally comprising limiting the temperature at which the resin cures.

Claim 14. (original) The improved method of claim 7 additionally comprising limiting the temperature at which the resin cures.

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16. (previously amended) The improved method of claim 7 wherein said cellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of cotton burrs, cotton stalks, flax, hemp, jute, cotton seed, rice hulls, wheat straw, corn stalks, peanut shells, sunflower shells, sunflower stalks, sugar cane, wood flour, wood pulp, sawdust, wood chips, tree bark, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17. (original) The improved method of claim 7 wherein said cellulosic material comprises approximately equal parts of particles passing through a 30 mesh screen and particles passing through an 80 mesh screen.

Claim 18. (original) The improved method of claim 7 wherein said cellulosic material comprises particles in sizes up to approximately 80 mesh.

Claim 19. (original) The improved method of claim 7 additionally comprising absorbing lignin onto the cellulosic material.

Claim 20. (original) The improved method of claim 7 additionally comprising absorbing onto the cellulosic material one or more primary precursors of lignin, trans-coniferyl, trans-synaptyl, and trans-p-coumaryl alcohol.

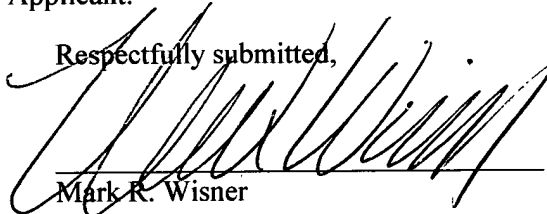
Claims 21-22 (Canceled).

REMARKS

In the Official Action of May 19, 2003, claims 7-14 and 16-20 were allowed and cancellation of claims 1-6, 15, 21, and 22 was requested so as to put the application in condition for allowance. For that reason, Applicants have canceled claims 1-6, 15, 21, and 22, and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendment(s) set out above, consideration of the remarks set out herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issuance are all respectfully requested. In the event there are questions, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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